

## **National Opera Week**

**WHEREAS**, National Opera Week, organized by Opera America, is an awareness campaign for the opera art form, participants throughout North America are encouraged to document the positive year-round impact this art form has had on their communities, advocate for arts funding and celebrate the art form's diversity and excitement; and

**WHEREAS**, National Opera Week is a great way to magnify the voice of the opera field, organizers held the inaugural Opera Advocacy Day on May 5, 2015 to build and strengthen relationships with other opera lovers, lawmakers and community leaders and will incorporate this event into National Opera Week; and

**WHEREAS**, National Opera Week in Western New York is coordinated by the Erwin H. Johnson Memorial Fund, a not-for-profit organization that is in its 28<sup>th</sup> year of supporting and promoting opera and ballet, many dedicated Board members of the organization volunteer their time and talents and commit a significant amount of donations they receive to fund opera related projects in the Buffalo/Niagara region; and

**WHEREAS**, National Opera Week in Western New York festivities will begin with a celebration kick-off event on October 19, 2016 with performances by local musicians and groups at the Central Branch of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, organizers are proud to announce that the 2015 celebration broke records for attendance both nationally and locally and they look forward to having the region participate in Opera Day activities scheduled in both Erie and Niagara Counties.

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to recognize and acknowledge National Opera Week from October 28 to November 6, 2016 and Opera Day in Erie County on October 29, 2016 and further acknowledges the important cultural contributions of the Erwin H. Johnson Memorial Fund to the enrichment of our county and community.